

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 01347 311216Z

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OIC-04 DRC-01 /041 W

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R 310921Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9747

USMISSION USUN NY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

.KAMCONSULKARACHI 2861

S E C R E T LAHORE 1347

E.O. 1165-\* GDS

TAGS: PINR, PK, UNGA

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC: MERAJ KHALID, NEWLY APPOINTED LEADER OF  
PAK DELEGATION TO UNGA

REF: ISLAMABAD 0207, JAN. 10, 1972

1. MERAJ KHALID, PRESENTLY CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB PROVINCE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED LEADER OF PAKISTAN'S DELEGATION TO UNGA. KHALID EXPECTS TO LEAVE LAHORE NOV 9 AND ARRIVE NEW YORK EARLY FOLLOWING WEEK. WILL REMAIN FOR UNGA SESSION. LOCAL EXPECTATION IS THAT HE WILL RETURN TO PAKISTAN AFTER NEW YORK TO TAKE UP CENTRAL GOVT PORTFOLIO.

2. REFTTEL(BEING REPEATED USUN) PROVIDED BIO INFO ON KHALID AS OF JAN 1972 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED CENTRAL MINISTER FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND UNDER-DEVELOPED AREAS IN BHUTTO'S FIRST CABINET. PRESENT TEL UPDATES THRU INFO.

3. KHALID WAS NAMED CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB PROVINCE ON MAY 8, 1972, UNDER PAKISTAN'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT, AND ASSUMED ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIOS OF SERVICES AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, HOME, LOCAL BODIES, AND SOCIAL WELFARE, AND SERVED AS WELL AS LEADER OF HOUSE IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LAHORE 01347 311216Z

4. DURING HIS YEAR AND HALF IN CHIEF MINISTER JOB, KHALID HAS NOT RPT NOT ENJOYED POWER AND PREROGATIVES NORMALLY ASSIGNED TO HIS POSITION IN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. POWER IN THIS MAJOR PROVINCEBC CENTER OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S POLITICAL STRENGTH, HAS BEEN CLOSELY AND JEALOUSLY HELD BY HIS DEVOTED FOLLOWER PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR MUSTAFA KHAR WITH BLESSINGS OF PRIME MINISTER. KHALID HAS PERFORCE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE DIRECT INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND ACTIONS IN PUNJAB PROVINCE BUT HAS CARVED OUT RESPECTABLE ROLE FOR HIMSELF IN HIS CAPACITY AS LEADER OF HOUSE WHERE HE IS CREDITED WITH MAINTAINING REMARKABLY PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN RULING PARTY AND SMALL BUT ARTICULATE OPPOSITION. HE IS ONE OF FEW UTTER PVP FIGURES WHO APPEARS TO BE RESPECTED BY OPPOSITION. HE HAS ALSO TAKEN ACTIVE PERSONAL INTEREST IN GOVERNMENT'S INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND PEOPLE'S WORKS PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES SUCH ACTIVITIES AS ASLT LITERACY DRIVE, SELF-HELP DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES, PROMOTION OF RURAL AGROVILLES, ETC. HE IS FAVORITE IN PROVINCE AS CHIEF GUEST AT SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS AND APPEARS TO BE ON CONSTANT ROUND OF OPENING SEMINARS, INAUGURATING FESTIVALS, ETC. IN OTHER WORDS, HE HAS PLAYED PART (REINFORCED BY HIS MANNER AND LOOKS) OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, WHEREAS YOUNG AND VIGOROUS KHAR HAS ACTED IN EFFECT AS CHIEF MINISTER UNDER PERMANENT CONSTITUTION. KHAR WILL ASSUME OFVS POSITION IN FACT AS WELL AS PRACTICE ON NOVEMBER 10, DAY AFTER KHALID'S DEPARTURE.

5. SINCE SUBMISSION OF REFTETUS KHALID APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED POLITICALLY SOMEWHAT FROM LEFT TOWARD CENTER. IN HIS UNENDING ROUND OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES, HE HAS CONTINUED TO PROMULGATE LINE ABOUT "ISLAMIC SOCIALISM", AND IS HIGHLY ARTICULATE ABOUT RIGHTS OF PEOPLE, ETC. NEVERTHELESS, CLOSE ASSOCIATES CLAIM HE IS EMBARRASSED BY HIS FORMER CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH SUCH MOVEMENTS AS MOVEMENT FOR AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY. STILL, WE WOULD JUDGE HIM TO BE FAITHFUL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT WORKER WHO WILL BE COMPLETELY RESPONSIVE TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM ISLAMABAD.

6. HIS RELATIONS WITH CONGEN HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. HE HAS BEEN ACCESSIBLE, FRIENDLY, HELPFUL, EVEN THOUGH, IN HIS PECULIAR

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PAGE 03 LAHORE 01347 311216Z

PROVINCIAL ROLE, OF LIMITED VALUE AS A POLITICAL CONTACT.  
KING

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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